



John Reich Journal

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The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$15.00

Life Membership \$375.00

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The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1800 B-18, BB-193 silver dollar. Both obverse and reverse dies used to strike this die marriage only. Very rare late die state. Obverse with die failure at stars 2 & 3, an arc like break connecting star 1 with star 4 and another connecting star 8 with star 11. Extensive die clashing and die breaks on reverse. Photo courtesy of ANA.

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John Reich Collectors Society

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Contents

Editors' Comments	2
Minutes of the 1999 Annual Meeting of the JRCS.....	5
Early Dollar Notes by Robert Stark.....	7
Bust or Bogus – An 1836 Dime by Russell J. Logan	8
The 1795 B-10 Silver Dollar – Much Rarer Than Thought?..... by W. David Perkins, NLG	12
Dentil Die Clashing on 1799 Dollars by Paul Hybert	22
Ten Favorite Bust Auction Catalogues by Karl Moulton.....	26
The “Spice” of Reduced Size Bust Quarters..... by Ken Cable-Camilleis	31
Attention Bust Quarter Collectors by Jim Koenings.....	33
Inspection of the First Coins of the First United States Mint	34
by Stephen A. Crain	

Editors' Comments

Welcome to the first issue of volume 13 of **The John Reich Journal**. I hope you will find the articles presented to you in this issue to be as interesting as I have found them. The authors are to be congratulated for their efforts in preparing them for our consideration. The effort extended by the authors is always appreciated by the officers, as without it there would be no journal for our enjoyment. My hope is that we will see some new contributors this year to expand the views presented in our pages. You will find a couple of new authors represented in this issue. A short note to them helping with their requests for information will be welcomed.

I would like to take a moment to thank the contributors to volume 12 of the journal. Due to their hard work and dedication in submitting their articles **The John Reich Journal** has again won an award from the ANA for second place in the national club publication portion of the competition. Without your work this would not be possible, thank you for your efforts.

Some of us are preparing to attend the annual ANA convention in Philadelphia as this issue is delivered. Those of you who are planning on being there should set aside the morning of Wednesday, August 9 at 8:30 AM for attending our annual meeting. It will be held in room 202A of the convention center. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other members and discuss our hobby. There will be an educational presentation that will promise to be invaluable to the purchaser of high quality slabbed coins. Do not miss this quality presentation by one of our officers. We will also be awarding the annual *Jules Reiver Literary Award* for the favorite article from volume 12 of the journal. This article was selected by the vote of the membership from those appearing in the last volume. The voting this year was particularly close with the winner barely edging out the competition. An engraved plaque will be awarded to the lucky winner at the meeting.

There are other advantages to attending the annual convention. JRCS will be hosting an open house again this year for the membership on Thursday evening in my hotel room. An announcement will be made at the meeting on Wednesday morning as to the room number and time. The information will also be available on the floor of the convention by contacting any officer, or most members. This is the place to come and spend some time discussing our favorite series of coins with other knowledgeable collectors. Researchers can ask questions concerning their latest projects as well as participate in informal roundtable discussions. The amount of information available is amazing. Plan on attending for a few hours and get to know some of the other members better.

Much has been discussed lately of the future of our hobby. Many authors have lamented the fact that the average age for convention attendees has risen over the last few decades. That "greyhairs" are dominating the hobby. Yes, that is true, but is it the beginning of the end for coin collecting? I think not! Times have changed dramatically over the decades since the removal of silver from our coinage in 1964. The chances to discover a valuable coin in circulation has almost diminished to zero. This has resulted in fewer and fewer people paying attention to their change to fill Whitman Folders. The new state quarter program by the US Mint may be changing all that. They are bringing diversity to our circulating coinage prompting people to again look at their change. Is this enough? No, but it is a good start. We need to pickup the ball from this point and expose youngsters to the interesting coinages of our ancestors. Without some efforts on our part this opportunity will be wasted. Take the time to give a talk to some school kids or library group. You will be amazed at the interest you generate. Expose them to this hobby and hope that the seed you planted will germinate into a collector later in life.

Those of you who are members of this society and that do not belong to the **Early American Coppers, Inc.** should consider joining. The coins they study are contemporary to ours. We can learn a lot of useful information from each other. The editor of their journal, PENNY-WISE, is Harry Salyards. His editorial comments are one of my favorite sections of the newsletter. His insights into the hobby are unmatched by most writers. His latest editorial is on the importance of the "middle class" of collector in the organization. That the "high rollers" spend the money, but the middle class does most of the work of the organization. His comments that the club can only be "built from the middle and endure from the middle" mirrors that of our own organization. Take heed to be part of the construction of a new and improved organization. Share your information with the rest of the membership through articles and presentations. Through education the middle of our organizations will become stronger guaranteeing continued success. For more information on membership in EAC contact: Rod Burress, 9742 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

Oftentimes I am asked by collectors about the most common mistakes made in the hobby. There are many that apply to beginning collectors, buying based on price, not knowing the difference between original and altered (cleaned) surfaces, not learning about what they are collecting, etc. By the time collectors become a member of an organization like this they usually have already graduated from making these basic errors. There is one thing that many of us are guilty of, not looking at our coins! There are many advanced die variety collectors that acquire a needed marriage for their collections, and put it away. There it stays for extended periods of time without seeing the light of day. The best way to really enjoy your

collection is to view the coins comparing them to others in your set. Look closely as the stories they tell are fascinating. The clash marks, die cracks and striking abnormalities are there for your enjoyment and education. Through constant comparison you can also refine your collection. Some of the earlier purchases may not meet your new standards of what you want for your set. Try and eliminate those pieces that do not make the grade improving your overall eye appeal in the process. You may even discover an important sub-variety, or error, in your set just waiting to be cherry picked. Imagine cherry picking without spending any money! I know of a collector that had a flip over double struck half in his possession and only "discovered" it when he was sharing his set with other collectors. I personally found a double edge lettered half in my collection that went undiscovered for a few years. Spend some time with your coins and enjoy them. Do not allow your collection to become just numbers on your census form. Enjoy them often, and share the experience with a fellow collector. I can't think of a better way to spend an afternoon.

Now that you are looking at your collection how about writing an article for the journal? Tell other collectors what you have found. Enlighten us on some interesting die state you have found lurking in your box. Better yet, tell us about your discovery of a new remarriage in your favorite series. Did you find an unknown cud in your collection? Is there a new pickup point you noticed on a rare die marriage? Or, do you just have an interesting story about one of your coins that you would like to share with the membership. I encourage you to take the time to submit something for publication in a future issue of the journal. The membership is the source for all the interesting information contained in these pages. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about submitting something for publication.

There is still time to update your Bust Dollar Census for the next issue of the journal. We will be publishing the census submitted in 13/2 for the information of the club. Have you purchased a new variety or an upgrade for your set? Did you forget to send your census and think it was too late for inclusion? Act now and send your information to the PO Box. Do not let those new purchases go unreported. Your new information will help make the report more complete.

I hope to see many of you in Philadelphia soon. Plan on attending the meeting Wednesday morning and the open house on Thursday night. Enjoy the company of collectors with the same interests as you. This will be the collecting highlight of many members year. I look forward to seeing many old friends that I have not seen since last years ANA. Renew old friendships and make some new ones. Coins are not the only things you can collect at the show.

Bradley S. Karoleff

Minutes of the 1999 Annual Meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society

At 9:00AM, on August 11, 1999, the annual meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society was convened in Room 4 of the Rosemont Convention Center, during the American Numismatic Association Summer Convention in Chicago, Illinois. A total of thirty-three (33) officers and members were present.

President David J. Davis welcomed all members, called the meeting to order, and asked all members to introduce themselves.

The minutes of the 1998 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Stephen A. Crain, and were approved as read.

An interim Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Russell J. Logan, who advised that a yearly report will appear in the next issue of the Journal. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

A Nominating Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman John McCloskey, with the following names placed into nomination for the annual election of officers:

President	David J. Davis
Vice President.....	John W. McCloskey
Vice President.....	Bradley S. Karoleff
Secretary	Stephen A. Crain
Treasurer	Russell J. Logan
Program Director	Jim Matthews
Asst. Program Director.....	W. David Perkins
Journal Editor	Bradley S. Karoleff

A motion to close nominations was made, seconded, and approved. A motion to elect the slate of officers, as nominated by the committee, was made, seconded, and approved.

An appeal was made by President Davis for new blood and new ideas on the Board of Directors.

The nominating committee for next year's election of officers is comprised of the following members:

John McCloskey
Jim Matthews
Bradley S. Karoleff

New applications for Life Membership were received from the following members:

Mark Stillman
Kevin Lonergan

There was no opposition from the membership, and the Life Memberships were awarded.

A discussion ensued regarding the recommended starting time for the 2000 Annual Meeting. Annual Meetings have typically been scheduled to start at 9:00AM, one hour before the public bourse opening at 10:00AM. Several members suggested that this does not allow sufficient time for the meeting, without interfering with time on the bourse floor. A starting time of 8:30AM was suggested for next year's meeting, with much positive discussion. It was decided to request an 8:30AM start time for the 2000 Philadelphia ANA Annual Meeting.

Several members expressed thanks and appreciation to John Reich Journal Editor Brad Karoleff for his excellent work in producing a professional quality and scholarly journal.

The Jules Reiver Literary Award for 1999 was presented by Vice President and Journal Editor Brad Karoleff. This year, two awards were presented from Volume 11 of the John Reich Journal, reflecting a tie for first place in the member balloting, as follows:

“Early Silver Dollar Die Marriages Discovered Since 1881”, W. David Perkins
“1801 Half Dimes - Revisited”, Ed Price & Jules Reiver

Brad made a plea for article submissions to the Journal, and requested more widespread participation in the balloting for the Jules Reiver Literary Award.

An “Appreciation Award” was made by Treasurer Russell J. Logan, presented to JRCS Vice President and Editor Brad Karoleff. The award was in the form of a copy of the book about counterfeit bust half researcher J. L. Riddell. Riddell was a past postmaster for the City of New Orleans.

Announcements were made of new and recently published books on the early Federal coinage. “Federal Half Dimes 1792 - 1837”, by Russell J. Logan and John W. McCloskey is now available, either at table #216 at the show, or by mail from the JRCS. The deluxe leather-bound edition is sold out, but the standard hard bound edition is available for \$75.00. Tony Terraska’s book on the early gold eagles will be available in 6 - 8 weeks for \$50.00. 300 copies of the standard edition, and 20 copies of the deluxe edition will be published. Dr. Glenn Peterson and Myron Xenos gave a progress report on the pending bust half dollar attribution guide, containing over 400 photographs. Brad Karoleff announced that copies of the latest “Bust Half Quotes” were available at the discounted price of \$17.00, delivered. Stephen Hermann announced that his latest edition of “Capped Bust Half Auction Prices” would be out in September 1999, for \$17.50 postpaid. The Bust Dollar book, authored by

Jules Reiver, will be available through Krause Publications.

Brad Karoleff announced that there would be an open house in his hotel room at the Rosemont Hyatt on Wednesday at 9:00PM and again on Thursday at 8:00PM. All JRCS members and those interested in the early Federal coinage were encouraged to attend.

Program Chairman Jim Matthews presented a superbly illustrated slide show on the early silver dollars 1794-1803. It highlighted many rare varieties and late die state silver dollars. W. David Perkins assisted and provided the slides which he had previously used in presentations for the ANA.

At the conclusion of the program, President Davis closed the meeting and we adjourned to the bourse floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen A. Crain
Secretary



EARLY DOLLAR NOTES **Robert Stark**

1795 B20, BB16

Variety collectors recognize the 1795 B20, BB16 Fillet Bust Dollar as rare since only three examples are known. Life after the coining press has not been kind to the known examples of B20, BB16. The discovery piece, sold by Lester Merkin in 1972, is described as having "many adjustment marks" by Bowers and Borkardt. The second example, which surfaced in a 1998 Bowers and Merena auction, is "holed and considerably abraded surfaces". The third example, sold by the same firm in early 2000, has the letters E and W scratched into the obverse fields. If these are the only examples, it isn't surprising that the variety was not known for so many decades after striking, as their substandard condition made them undesirable numismatic properties. What is surprising is that all known examples have been abused. Carrying the logic a bit further, since poorer examples of coinage are usually not sought by collectors, they may be a relatively rich source for scarce and overlooked varieties.

Comments and contributions can be made to the author at rstark@udel.edu

Bust or Bogus – An 1836 Dime

Russell J. Logan

When the Bust dime book was published in 1984, none of the authors owned any contemporaneous bust dime counterfeits. We were all aware of the profusion of bogus bust half dollars, and, although we never really discussed it, we were all looking for bogus dimes. I purchased my first two Bust counterfeit dimes at the Bay State show in Boston during the late 1980's for next to nothing and realized they were there for the taking, but only if you were willing to look at the lower grade coins. Most of the bogus dimes that I, and my other co-authors, found in the late 1980's and 1990's were German silver struck from counterfeit dies; they were hilarious and very similar to their bust half cousins. A few were cast, but none were made well enough to deceive a sober merchant.

Although they can hardly be classified as common, Bust dime contemporaneous counterfeits surfaced at about two a year during the 1990's. E-Bay flushed three out of hiding in a two month interval during the first quarter of this year; yet none were described as counterfeit. One of them I recognized as something special; something that I had been specifically looking for the past few years. It is the crux of this article.

Cleveland Mid-Winter ANA 1997

It all started at the mid winter ANA show in Cleveland in 1997. Always wanting to challenge my good friend Henry Hilgard (retirement needs some supplemental challenges), I gathered up all my late date 1830's Bust dimes and the very special 1836 struck copper piece that was sold to me in 1991 as bogus. See Figure 1. I was 99% sure that I had identified the reverse as 1837 Reverse C (see Figure 2) because of the legend and scroll relationships and especially the low F in OF. But there the similarities ended, or so I thought. The coin was very weakly struck on a very rough flan that was overweight (2.88 grams) and the obverse and reverse dies were struck in the medallic "non-flip" position, ↑↑. The obverse was pitted and severely lapped, yielding little additional information. The specific gravity was 8.5, close to that of brass (8.4).



1836 Dime in brass and struck from Mint dies.

1836 Obverse 3; 1837 Reverse C

Figure 1

Henry accepted the challenge with enthusiasm, and when I returned to the table a few hours later, he had formed his hypothesis and proceeded to return the challenge to me. Yes, it was the same reverse as 1837 Reverse C, but from a much later die state than any known JR-3 or JR-4. Then he landed the clincher: *it's the same obverse as 1836 Obverse 3!* See Figure 3. Why hadn't I seen that? Sure the die had been lapped, the fields corroded with rust, but all the diagnostics were there. Henry's challenge: find another one before classifying it something other than just a contemporaneous counterfeit.



1837 Reverse 3
Note low F in OF.
Figure 2



1837 Obverse 3
Note Block 8 in date.
Figure 3

E-Bay Surveillance

Looking at every Bust dime lot on e-Bay, regardless of condition, does pay off occasionally. Not all lots are scanned and when they are, they're frequently small and blurry with no reverse, as was this lot. But this 1836 obverse in question needed no reverse for identification; the rust pit above the digit 3 told me that this was the coin that Henry challenged me to find! I took no chances when sniping the lot and was not surprised to learn I had no competition. When the coin arrived (see Figure 4) I did a double take. It was extremely light and very thin. It weighed only 1.93 grams and had a specific gravity of 8.4. The edge was reeded in a similar fashion and the dies were also medallically aligned ↑↑. It was identical to the first except in weight!



Second 1836 dime in brass. Identical to first except for weight.
Figure 4

So, I found the “second” coin, now what? What did that prove? Was there some way that I could relate these two pieces to other known coins, patterns, restrikes or novodel pieces? I turned to the back of Andrew Pollock’s *United States Patterns and Related Issues* book and re-read each section carefully. Were there similar pieces in other denominations? Are the dies known today? How does one best describe the fabric of these two coins?

Analysis

The most noticeable feature on these two dimes is the medallic alignment $\uparrow\uparrow$ of the obverse and reverse. The dies have been lapped in an attempt to remove rust pits, the flans are severely tapered, the strike is uneven, and the coins have very little wear. Unfortunately, Pollock makes no reference to die alignment in the Privately Issued Restrikes 1792-1869 appendix, nor does he discuss flan composition or texture. Based on my experience, the brass restrike 1813 half dollars (Pollack #6205) possess the same intrinsic characteristics as these dimes. See Figure 5. It is reasonable to postulate that these dime and half dollar dies were garnered by a mechanically inclined numismatist who had access to a mechanical press probably some time after the Civil War. He only wished to share his good fortune (owning a couple of Mint dies) with a few of his coin buddies by giving them some homemade restrikes!



**Pollack #6205 1813 Restrike Bust half dollar.
Coin is weakly struck from rusted dies and is $\uparrow\uparrow$.**

Figure 5

Thus, the list of Privately Issued Restrikes keeps growing for coins struck over a century ago. The real question in my mind is “what has happened to all the Mint dies used to create these restrikes?” Like the coins, these dies are still probably in existence, but have found a safer hiding place.



The 1795 B-10 Silver Dollar – Much Rarer Than Thought?

W. David Perkins, NLG

How rare is the 1795 B-10, BB-22 silver dollar die marriage? Over the years this die marriage has been called R-6 (Rarity-6), R-7 and R-8 by researchers, specialists and in auction catalog descriptions. It has been designated as R-6 or R-7 in most major silver dollar reference books, with an occasional suggestion of (high) R-5. These ratings imply estimates of “as few as one known” up to “as many as 31 (or even more in the case of being called R-5) specimens known.” Which rating is correct, or more appropriately what rarity rating should be assigned today?

Determining “how many specimens of a given die marriage exist” is a difficult task, especially for the early silver dollars 1794-1803. The compilation of rarity ratings for the early dollars are in their infancy relative to the rarity ratings for specialties such as large cents, half cents and Capped Bust half dollars. For example, half cent collectors who are members of *Early American Coppers (EAC)* have the “1/200 Survey and Directory” compiled by Ed Masuoka. The most recent release of this survey had input from 185 half cent collections! Based on this input, Ed lowered the rarity rating for six die marriages, each by “one level.” There are similarly developed surveys and rarity ratings for large cents and Capped Bust half dollars. [See “Rarity Ratings for Capped Bust Half Dollars: History and Update” by Stephen J. Herrman and Glenn R. Peterson, M.D., *John Reich Journal*, Volume 12, Issue 1, December, 1998.] Nothing on this scale has been undertaken for the early dollars.

I have been researching the 1795 B-10 die marriage for over a decade. My study includes public auction appearances, private sales (that I am aware of) and specimens in other specialist’s collections (past and present). I think you will find the results of these efforts very surprising.

Haseltine Specimen

The first recorded specimen of 1795 B-10 (called Haseltine-10, or H-10 at that time) was the Haseltine specimen. John W. Haseltine offered his early silver dollar collection at public auction through his *Haseltine Type Table Catalog Sale* on November 1, 1881. The introduction to Haseltine’s *Type Table* sale read (in part):

To Collectors:

In this catalog, I offer for public competition my Type Table of the United States Dollars, Half Dollars and Quarter Dollars, correctly described as to variety and condition. In many of the varieties in the Type Table, I have met with but a single specimen, and in that case they are termed excessively rare....

THE 1795 B-10 SILVER DOLLAR – MUCH RARER THAN THOUGHT?

The lot description in the Type Table sale for the 1795 "No. 10" silver dollar read as follows:

No. 10; obv., same as No. 1; rev., delicate wreath; 18 berries, 9 on either side; 1 of the berries is on the lower outside part of wreath, nearly opposite C in "America"; very good; **excessively rare variety.**

Thus we can logically conclude that Haseltine knew of only one specimen of 1795 H-10 at this time, the one offered for sale in his *Type Table Sale*.

COMPILATION OF THE VARIETIES IN THE W. EARL SPIES COLLECTION				
1794	1796: B. 6	1798: B. 24A	1799: B. 11A	1800: B. 14A
1795: B. 1	B. 6A	B. 24b	B. 11b	B. 14b
B. 2	B. 6b	B. 25	B. 12	B. 15
B. 3	B. 7	B. 25A	B. 12B	B. 16
B. 4	B. 7a	B. 25B	B. 13	B. 16B
B. 4a	B. 8	B. 26	B. 14	B. 16c
B. 5a	B. 8A	B. 27	B. 14a	B. 17
B. 6	B. 8b	B. 27a	B. 14b	B. 17a
B. 7	B. 8c	B. 28	B. 14b	B. 17a
B. 8	B. 8d	B. 28a	B. 15	B. 18
B. 9	B. 9	B. 29	B. 15A	B. 18A
B. 9a	B. 9A	B. 29a	B. 16	B. 18b
B. 9a, 2	B. 9b	B. 30	B. 16A	B. 18c
B. 11	B. 10	B. 30A	B. 16A(1)	B. 19
B. 12	B. 10a	B. 31	B. 16B	B. 19A
B. 12A	B. 11	B. 31A	B. 16B(1)	B. 19B
B. 13	B. 11a	(B. 32)	B. 16c	B. 20
B. 13a	B. 11b	'B. 33)	B. 17	B. 20a
(B. 18)	B. 11A	(B. 33a)	B. 17A	
B. 14	B. 11Aa		B. 17b	
B. 15	B. 11B		B. 18	
	B. 11Ba	1799: B. 1	B. 18	
		B. 1a	B. 1a	
		B. 12	B. 19	
		B. 13	B. 1b	
		B. 14	B. 21	
		B. 14A	B. 2	
		B. 14B	B. 3	
		B. 15	B. 22	
		B. 15a	B. 4	
		B. 15b	B. 22a	
		B. 6	B. 22b	
		B. 6a	B. 23	
		B. 6b	B. 23a	
		B. 6c	B. 23b	
		B. 7	B. 3	
		B. 7A	B. 4	
		B. 7b	B. 23a	
		B. 8	B. 4a	
		B. 8A	B. 4b	
		B. 8B	B. 4A	
		B. 8c	B. 4B	
		B. 9	B. 5	
		B. 9A	B. 5a	
		B. 9b	B. 5c	
		B. 20	B. 6	
		B. 21	B. 8a	
		B. 22	B. 10	
		B. 22a	B. 10A	
		B. 22b	B. 10B	
		B. 23	B. 10c	
		B. 23A	B. 10d	
		B. 24	B. 11	
			B. 14	

The W. Earl Spies silver dollar collection was sold by Stack's on December 9, 1974. This extensive die variety collection included over 230 early silver dollars, but no 1795 B-10!

In 1950, M. H. Bolender published his book *The United States Early Silver Dollars From 1794-1803*. Bolender designated the 1795 B-10 as Rarity 6 in his book. To the best of my knowledge, Bolender never clearly defined the rarity rating system used in his book. It appears that he used the "Scale for Rarity" from William H. Sheldon's classic book *Early American Cents*. [By this scale R-6 implies that the die marriage is "Very Rare," with between 13 and 30 specimens known. A R-7 indicates "Extremely Rare" with 4-12 specimens being known. And a R-8 denotes 1-3 specimens known.] I believe Bolender assigned the rarity ratings for the early dollar varieties somewhat randomly. And Bolender sometimes assigned the R-6 rating to a variety even though he knew of only a few existing specimens. In other cases he would call a die marriage R-7 when he knew of only one specimen! For example (in his book), for 1798 B-7, Bolender stated "This combination is extremely rare, and I have found but two specimens. **Rarity 6.**" And for 1795 B-11, Bolender stated "I have found but one example. Excessively rare. **Rarity 7.**"

In the 70 years between 1881 and 1950 I have been able to trace only two 1795 H-10, B-10 silver dollars offered for sale at public auction! [Yet Bolender called this R-6 when his book was published in 1950....]

World's Greatest Collection (WGC) Specimen

The second specimen offered for public sale prior to 1950 (that I am aware of) is a high grade example first offered in *The World's Greatest Collection of United States Silver Coins*, Numismatic Gallery, January 20, 1945:12. This lot was plated, both obverse and reverse.

Hazeltine 10. An uncirculated coin, excessively rare in any condition. Hazeltine's specimen was only very good. [sic.]

This specimen realized a strong \$150 on Abe Kosoff's sale estimate of \$110. It was acquired by Adolf Friedman, and was resold in August, 1949 as lot 146 in Numismatic Gallery's 1949 *ANA Convention Sale*. Harold L. Bareford acquired it from this 1949 sale, and owned it until his collection was sold by Stack's on October 22 & 23, 1981. It was sold as lot 404 in this sale (and was plated in both black and white, and in color). Stack's cataloged it as R-7, as follows:

1795 B.10. Flowing Hair. Two leaves below each wing of the eagle. **Brilliant Uncirculated** and wholly prooflike. Even light gray-golden toning. An exceptional strike. Not only is the coin rare in Uncirculated condition but this variety is extremely rare, listed as R-7 on an 8 point scale. (**SEE COLOR PLATE**)

Jim Matthews was the buyer in this sale. Jim consigned it to Stack's *The 400 Sale*, January 13, 14, 1988:1166. The buyer this time was a prominent New Jersey collector. It remains in his collection today.

Bolender Specimen (Bolender Plate Coin)

Bolender sold his personal reference collection of silver dollars in his *183rd Auction Sale*, February 23, 1952. His 1795 B-10 dollar was sold as lot 12 in this sale. Bolender's description was as follows:

1795 silver dollar. B-10. Flowing hair. Reverse: two berries on outside of wreath on right between eagle's wing and ribbon bow. Extremely rare variety, rarity 6. Fine. Purchased from the Guttag Bros., New York dealers many years ago. **Plate.** (Reverse shown on plate II). \$50.

This specimen sold to K. P. Austin of Salisbury, Maryland for \$85, significantly over Bolender's estimated selling price of \$50. [Source: K. P. Austin's catalog and invoice, Bolender's *183rd Auction Sale*.] K. P. Austin sold it privately through Bolender to Alfred J. Osthimer and his wife, probably in the late 1950s. The Osthimer's sold it to Superior Galleries in the early 1970s, and Superior sold it to an unnamed (at the time) collector. In 1975 Superior Galleries offered an extensive early dollar collection in their *1975 ANA Sale*. This specimen was offered as lot 805. The cataloger included the statement "The finest specimen known of this semi-unique (?) variety...." It was cataloged as R-8 (1-3 known).



Obverse of 1795 B-10 silver dollar. This obverse die was used in striking 1795 B-1, B-10 and B-16 silver dollars.



Reverse of 1795 B-10 silver dollar. Reverse photo is the Bolender specimen and is the plate coin in the Bolender book. This reverse die was used to strike the 1795 B-10 die marriage only.

Walter Breen noted in his copy of the sale catalog that it was “R-7+, 2nd or 3rd finest” (known to him). I also have Jack Collins’ copy of the sale catalog. He noted for this lot “High R-7, 1st of 3 finest, probably 2nd finest” The Bolender / Austin / Ostheimer specimen was acquired in this 1975 sale by specialist H. Roland Willasch. The specimen was last offered publicly in the sale of the Willasch collection, Superior Galleries, May, 1990:448. Today this specimen resides in the author’s collection.

1952 ANA Sale Specimen

The following summer another specimen of 1795 B-10 was sold in the 1952 A.N.A. Convention Sale. Lot 3099 was a 1795 B-10 silver dollar and was sold as part of a large and specialized early dollar collection formed by O. K. Rumbel of Mission, Texas. The lot description read:

1795 B-10. Flowing hair. Obverse identical to B-1 Rev. This rare die can be distinguished by two berries on the outside of the wreath, at right, between the end of eagle’s wing and the ribbon bow. There are two leaves under each wing of the eagle. Fine to Very Fine. An attractive, evenly toned coin. The Bolender specimen was only Fine and realized \$85.00 in the sale of his collection on February 23rd last. Rarity 6. Ex. rare. Undoubtedly one of the finest known examples and worth a good price. **Plate.**

This specimen realized \$59 in this sale. The Rarity-6 rating was probably taken from Bolender’s book. Note that the cataloger considered this specimen “undoubtedly one of the finest known” at this time. The next appearance of this specimen was in the Mid-American

San Diego Sale, September 27-28, 1985:514, where cataloged as follows:

Exceptionally Rare 1795 Bolender-10

1795 Very Fine (30/30). Bolender-10, Rarity-7. The overall coloration is superb and original, with grey surfaces changing to gold at the protected areas. The surfaces are virtually perfect, with no adjustment marks or abrasions; the centering and strike are very acceptable as well. This is the first example of this very rare die variety to be sold at auction in over five years, and it is a very important coin for the specialist.

This variety combines the B-1 and B-16 obverse with a reverse also used on B-17 (characterized by only one berry opposite the final A in AMERICA). Although accorded a Rarity 6 level by Bolender, this variety is, in fact, a Rarity 7 by modern standards. The finest known is the World's Greatest Collection:12 - 1949 ANA Sale - Bareford:404 (which is a Prooflike Uncirculated). The piece which we offer here was Lot 3099 of the 1952 ANA Sale, and it is clearly the second finest known.

This specimen was (probably) acquired by specialist H. W. "Woody" Blevins. Blevins' extensive die variety collection of early silver dollars was auctioned by Superior's Galleries, June, 1988 (this 1795 B-10 was sold as lot 3592). [Note that the 1795 B-10 was cataloged as (only) Rarity-5 in this sale.] The description read:

RARE 1795 BOLENDER-10

1795. Bolender-10. Rarity-5. Blundered Date ("1795 over 1195"); Two leaves below each wing, eighteen berries arranged 9X9. Very Fine 20. An exquisite example with superb original color. Both the obverse and reverse are deep, rich gray which changes to gold in the protected areas. The surfaces are virtually perfect with no adjustment marks or abrasions whatsoever; the centering and strike are excellent as well. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only example of this rare die variety to appear at auction for many years. Additionally, this particular coin is tied with a specimen which sold as lot 805 in our 1975 ANA Sale as the second finest known for the variety. A most important coin. The Finest Known is the Choice About Uncirculated Bareford coin

From Mid-American's September 1985 Sale, Lot 514

From 1952 ANA Sale, Lot 3099

This specimen was acquired in the Blevins sale by a New Jersey early silver dollar specialist.

I have been unable to trace any other auction appearances of the 1795 B-10 die marriage in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, until 1975. And the first "new" specimen to be offered for sale at public auction during this time period (over 25 years) is not until 1979.

New 1956 Revised Edition

of

VALUATION LIST

OF

The United States Early Silver Dollars
from 1794 to 1803

By M. H. BOLENDER (Published in 1950)

Six years have passed since the last valuation list of the early silver dollars was published by Mr. Bolender July 1, 1950. Since the old list is no longer a true market report of the value of the coins, this new list has been needed for a long time, especially since this series has become interesting to so many collectors, and prices of coins have risen steadily during these past six years.

EXPLANATION OF CONDITION —A clear understanding of the condition or quality of coins is of utmost importance. Especially is this true of the early silver dollars, because they are heavy coins and therefore more likely to become nicked, dented, or scratched than smaller coins. In the spirit of helpfulness to inexperienced collectors, the standards of classification used by the author for 50 years is hereby offered and recommended.

Proof coins are specially struck for collectors, and have a mirror-like reflective surface, and unusual sharpness, the best possible condition.

Uncirculated coins are the regular strikes for business use, but have never been in circulation or use. They will show mint lustre.

Extremely fine coins show no wear and only slight evidence of handling or circulation, sometimes called "cabinet friction", and are very desirable.

Very fine coins show no material wear, but may still retain some lustre and are definitely better than fine, and of pleasing quality.

Fine coins show very little if any wear, but may have become darkened, and lost the mint lustre. The stars on reverse must all be clear as well as the letters in the motto and the details of the shield.

Good coins must show all important features clearly, including especially the date, head, stars on obverse, LIBERTY, eagle, and legend on reverse.

Any coin that has a nick, dent, scratch, planchet defect, or other damage visible to the naked eye is worth less than a perfect coin.

Date	Varieties	Good	Fine	V.Fine	Ex.Fine	Unc.
1794	1	\$400.00	\$750.00	\$1250.00	\$2000.00	\$3000.00
1795	1-5-14	25.00	40.00	60.00	100.00	175.00
1795	2-6	30.00	50.00	75.00	125.00	200.00
1795	3-4-7-15	35.00	60.00	85.00	150.00	250.00
1795	9-12-13	40.00	75.00	100.00	200.00	300.00
1795	8-10-11-12a	50.00	100.00	125.00	250.00	400.00
1795	16-17-18-19	75.00	200.00	300.00	400.00	600.00
1796	1-4-5	25.00	50.00	75.00	100.00	175.00
796	2-5a	30.00	60.00	90.00	125.00	200.00
796	3-4a-6	50.00	90.00	200.00	300.00	400.00

It is important to note that many key silver dollar die variety collections being formed at this time and / or sold at this time were missing an example of the 1795 B-10 silver dollar.

W. Earl Spies collected the early silver dollars for over 40 years. His collection was sold in Stack's *The W. Earl Spies Collection of Silver Dollars 1794-1803* on December 9, 1974. This extensive die variety collection included over 230 early dollars! It included examples of the Extremely Rare 1795 B-8 and B-11, both called R-7 in Bolender's book (and both are still probably R-7 today). Very few die marriages were missing in the Spies collection, but this collection did not have an example of the 1795 B-10 silver dollar!

I have in my possession a want list prepared by Earl Spies, dated May 25, 1957 and sent to the Kagin's at their Hollinbeck Coin Company, Des Moines, Iowa. On his want list were the 1795 B-10, B-11 and B-12 die marriages. [Note that at the time of the sale of his collection in 1974, Spies had one 1795 B-11 and two different die states of 1795 B-12, both considered extremely rare die marriages at the time.] Interestingly, Spies

1950 Bolender Valuation List. The 1795 B-10 is grouped with the 1795 B-9 and B-12 die marriages, called R-5 or R-6 in his book.

“boxed in a square” on this handwritten want list the varieties he considered very rare. 1795 B-10 was *not* boxed. It is very possible that Spies was aware of the three specimens having been offered in the 1945-1952 time frame. This, coupled with Bolender book calling it an R-6, may have led Spies to believe it that it was “not that rare” (meaning R-7 or R-8). Whatever the case, it appears that Spies failed to acquire an example of this die marriage in the forty years or so that he collected the early dollars. And we know that he was searching for one diligently as far back as 1957!

Specialist Frank Stirling collected early silver dollars by die marriage for over 50 years. Twenty five of his early dollars were offered for sale at public auction in 1986. I have a listing of his collection (probably from the 1960s). His collection listed close to 75 die marriages at this time, including many of the “tough” ones. For 1795 this included Bolender numbers B-1 through B-9, B-11 through B-15, B-18 [Later this proved to be a die state of

1795 B-6, not a new variety. See *John Reich Journal* Volume 11, Issue 2, January 1998, pages 7-8 for details.] and the only known (at the time) B-20. To the best of my knowledge, Stirling never owned a 1795 B-10 silver dollar.

The Hollinbeck-Kagin Coin Co. offered the extensive and fairly complete (by Bolender variety) early dollar collection of Specialist Emanuel Taylor in a fixed price list (not dated, probably issued in 1959) titled *World's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars*. There were 149 lots of early dollars, but again, no 1795 B-10.

The Marmaduke Fox Collection, Bolender's *181st Auction Sale*, September 8, 1951 had 99 varieties of dollars 1794-1803, but no 1795 B-10. The large early dollar collection of Farish Baldenhofer, also sold privately to the Ostheimers in the 1950s did not have a specimen of 1795 B-10. The variety collection of Andre DeCoppet as sold by James Kelly's *Central States Numismatic Society Convention Sale*, April 29-30, 1955 which offered over 120 early silver dollar die marriages did not have a 1795 B-10.

I am not aware of an example of 1795 B-10 in any other collection during this time.

1979 ANA Sale / Reiver Specimen

The next specimen I have been able to trace appeared in the *1979 ANA Auction*, New England Rare Coin Auctions, July 29-August 1, 1979:1027. It was not plated. The catalog description reads as follows:

1795 Flowing Hair, 2 Leaves, Bolender #10, R-6. VERY FINE-20, usual adjustment marks.

Jules Reiver acquired this lot, and this coin still resides in his collection today.

Brooks Specimen (Bowers Plate Coin)

The next offering I am able to trace is Bowers & Merena, June 11 & 12, 1989:160. This was cataloged as follows:

1795 Flowing Hair. B-10. VF-30. The surfaces have pearl gray toning with wisps of deeper iridescence around the letters, numerals, and stars. Most of the design details are exceptionally sharp for the grade. Bolender described the variety as **Extremely Rare**, and ranked it as Rarity-6. Douglas Winter, writing in 1986, expressed the opinion that Rarity-7 was a far more accurate estimate. We have compared the present example with the illustrations of the specimen offered in the 1975 ANA catalogue and can report that our piece appears to be somewhat sharper in many details. Once sold it may be a long time before another of equal quality appears.

THE 1795 B-10 SILVER DOLLAR – MUCH RARER THAN THOUGHT?

This specimen was acquired by Jim Matthews and resides in his collection today. It is also the plate coin in the Bowers book. “Doug Winter writing in 1986” refers to an article authored by Douglas A. Winter for the *John Reich Journal*, Volume 1, Issue 3, September, 1986, page 14. Following is what he wrote concerning the 1795 B-10:

Bolender-10 A very underrated variety which is more likely an R-7 than the R-6 assigned by Bolender. Bareford:404, ex - 1949 ANA:146, WGC:12 and Granberg is a Prooflike Uncirculated and almost certainly the finest known. The last specimen to appear at auction (of which I am aware) was the 1975 ANA:805.

Reiver / Matthews / Heritage 1982 ANA Sale Specimen

The following specimen will not be known (to exist) by most specialists, nor was it included in the Bowers book. A 1795 B-10 specimen was “cherried” by Jules Reiver sometime in the 1970s. Jules owned this specimen until he purchased the 1979 ANA Specimen (listed above). Jules then sold this specimen to Jim Matthews. Jim Matthews acquired the WCG / Bareford specimen in October, 1981. Jim then consigned this specimen to the 1982 Heritage ANA Sale. It was consigned as a 1795 B-10, but unfortunately not cataloged as such. It’s whereabouts is unknown today. It was graded F-12 (or so).

These are all of the specimens I have been able to trace that were offered for sale at public auction.

Teaparty Specimen

I am aware of one other specimen. A new specimen was bought “over the counter” at J. J. Teaparty Rare Coins in April of this year. Liz Arlin attributed this specimen as 1795 B-10, and quickly placed it in an east coast early dollar specialist’s collection. It was graded and slabbed as NGC VF-35.

VALUATION LIST

The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803

By M. H. BOLENDER

Giving the Current Prices at Time of the Book's Publication July 1, 1950

EXPLANATION OF CONDITION.—A clear understanding of the condition or quality of coins is of utmost importance. Especially is this true of the early silver dollars, because they are heavy coins and therefore more likely to become nicked, dented, or scratched than smaller coins. In the spirit of helpfulness to inexperienced collectors, the standards of classification used by the author for 44 years is hereby offered and recommended.

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Fine coins show very little if any wear, but may have become darkened, and lost the mint lustre. The stars on reverse must all be clear as well as the letters in the motto and the details of the shield.

Good coins must show all important features clearly, including especially the date, head, stars on obverse, LIBERTY, eagle, and legend on reverse.

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1795	9-10-12	25.00	50.00	75.00	125.00	200.00
1795	8-11-12a-13	30.00	75.00	100.00	150.00	250.00
1795	16-17	40.00	125.00	200.00	300.00	400.00
1796	1-2	17.50	30.00	50.00	100.00	150.00
1796	3	30.00	75.00	100.00	150.00	250.00
1796	4-5	15.00	25.00	40.00	75.00	125.00
1797	1-3	17.50	90.00	50.00	85.00	150.00

1956 Valuation List. The 1795 B-10 is now grouped with the R-7 die marriages of 1795, the B-8, B-11 and B-12a. This is strong evidence that Bolender later viewed the B-10 as R-7, not as R-6 as published originally in his book. Note that in Fine condition the 1795 B-10 doubled in value from 1950 to 1956, from \$50 to \$100!

Tecumseh Specimen, Listed in Bowers, is not a 1795 B-10

Bowers lists in his silver dollar book the “Tecumseh Specimen” under his “Notable Specimens,” a 1795 B-10, ex. Steve Ivy Numismatic Auctions, December 9-10, 1979: 793. **Lot 793 is cataloged as 1795 B-11, not B-10.** There are no other 1795 B-10 silver dollars offered in this sale. **Thus this “Notable Specimen” is listed in the Bowers book in error.** [The same specimen is listed correctly under 1795 B-11, BB-12.]

In summary, I have only been able to trace 8 different specimens of the 1795 B-10 die marriage offered in the last 120 years.

It is also worth noting that the Haseltine specimen could very well be a duplicate of one of the specimens listed above. Q. David Bowers published (I believe in *Penny Wise*) a grading guide from a book called *The Current Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations* by Ivan C. Michels, published in 1884. Under “Remarks and Explanations” were the following for the grades (as used in this time period) of Very fine, Fine and Very good:

4. Very fine coins exhibit well-defined lines and surfaces, with the slightest traces of having been handled, but free from all scratches and nicks.
5. Fine coins are those which are barely worn, showing only under critical examination traces of slight wear in the rubbed surfaces of the finer lines.
6. Very good coins are somewhat slightly worn, yet perfect in every particular.

Thus Haseltine’s “Very good” 1795 No. 10 could be equivalent in grade today’s Fine or Very Fine. Given the rarity of the die marriage Haseltine assigned in 1881 and the number of Fine and Very Fine coins known today it is possible the Haseltine specimen is the same as one of the specimens known and listed here. [As we cannot prove this possibility, the Haseltine specimen is counted as one of the eight specimens known to me.]

I believe that Bolender later realized the 1795 B10 die marriage was rarer than he thought, and later considered this die marriage as R-7. Bolender included with his silver dollar book (as published in 1950) a “Valuation List of the United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803.” This list included “current prices” per Bolender for the grades of Good, Fine, V. Fine, Ex. Fine and Unc. for each variety, with varieties of the same value grouped together. The 1950 Valuation List had six groupings for 1795 silver dollars, with B-9, B-10 and B-12 (listed as R-5s and R-6s in the Bolender book) being grouped together (at one price). The next category had B-8, B-11, B-12a and B-13 together (all R-7s in Bolender’s book). [The last category had 1795 B-16 and B-17, both R-8s.] In 1956 Bolender published his “New 1956 Revised Edition of Valuation List.” Notably, the **1795 B-10 die marriage was now grouped with the R-7 die marriages (B-8, B-10, B-11 and B-12a)!**

Bowers listed only four specimens of the 1795 B-10 silver dollar under his “Notable Specimens” in his silver dollar book published in 1993. As previously stated, the “Tecumseh Specimen,” listed in the “Notable Specimens” for this die marriage is a 1795 B-11 die marriage, not B-10. This results in one less “Notable Specimen” for 1795 B-10, or only 3 in total.

Bowers listed a total of 9 auction appearances in his “Auction Population Survey.” Three of these auction appearances were for specimens grading “Mint State-60 or better.” I believe that all three of these appearances are of the same specimen (World’s Greatest Collection), reducing the total from 9 to 7 auction appearances. And the Tecumseh specimen (which is really 1795 B-11) was probably included in the auction survey results. The net is that the **Bowers’ survey identified no more than 6 different auction appearances of 1795 B-10** (as of the 1993 publication of his book)!

If you review the provenance of all of the specimens listed above, you will notice that the majority of them passed “from one specialist’s collection to another.” Six of the eight are in specialist collections today. This is strong evidence indicating the extreme rarity of this die marriage. The whereabouts of the other two specimens, the Haseltine specimen and the Reiver / Matthews / 1982 Heritage ANA sale specimen, are unknown today (to me).

In conclusion, I suggest that the 1795 B-10, BB-22 die marriage is a Rarity-7 today, with 8 specimens known, one of which could possibly be a duplicate listing (the Haseltine specimen).

With estimates of as many as 31 specimens (or more) of 1795 B-10 existing, it may come as a surprise to many as to how rare this die marriage actually is.

I am very interested to learn if any additional specimens are known. I can be contacted care of *John Reich Collector’s Society*, or via e-mail at wdperki@us.ibm.com. I will share any information reported with *JRCS* members through *The John Reich Journal*.



**NOTE: IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO HAVE
YOUR BUST DOLLAR CENSUS
INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.**

Please Send A Copy Today To:

JRCS Bust Dollar Census, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, Ohio 45030.

Dentil Die Clashing on 1799 Dollars

Paul Hybert

The “dentil die clashes” fascinate me. These occurred when the faces of the clashing dies were not parallel; one die was not seated correctly in the press when this clashing occurred.



B7a. The clashed dentils extend from the dentils to the tops of the letters

These marks are too small to be “discovered” by viewing the typical photos in an auction catalogue; but once a variety is known to have them in a certain position, then the reader of a catalogue might be able to say “That mark probably is from clashed dentils.” Even examining the coin in person might not be enough; without magnification, the marks might be considered flow lines.

I started collecting Bust Dollars only a few years ago, and decided to collect the varieties of 1799. My first purchase, a B4, exhibited results of die clashing in the dentils, and since that time I have searched dealer's stocks for coins with these markings. I have seen a few other varieties showing dentil die clashing, and the clashed images have some common characteristics:

1. The clashed dentils extend about 0.5mm from the actual dentils.
2. The clashed dentils appear around only part of the coin's circumference; anywhere from less than one-fifth to more than one-third.

Here is my working hypothesis on what happened at the Mint. Somehow, the anvil die became loose in its mounting bracket and ended up tilted firmly at an angle. The planchet would not remain on the tilted anvil die surface and the dies would meet. When the hammer

die descended, the highest part of the anvil die met the hammer die. The highest part of the anvil die was narrow and crescent-shaped; the more the die was tilted, the less the crescent would extend around the die's circumference and the closer the crescent would move towards the center of the hammer die. (The crescent also would become narrower.) Both dies would be clashed in the contact area, but the anvil die would experience greater localized internal stressed (and resultant catastrophic damage) because it was not uniformly supported by its usual "platform".

The size of the clashed image is subject to change. Not just due to normal wear of the die, but also to die polishing to remove clash marks and to wear on the observed coins which mostly grade F to VF.

I have seen the following instances of dentil die clashing:

VARIETY CLASHED DENTIL LOCATION NOTES

B3	obverse	3:30-5:30	Lot #7173 Heritage's ANA '99 Sale. PCGS MS62
B4	obverse	8:00-11:00	
B7a	reverse	9:30-11:30	
B19	reverse	1:00-5:30	Stars clashed over MERI.

B3 and B4

B3 and B4 share a common reverse die, the 15 star reverse with two enlarged clouds covering most of the two extra stars. Although the clashing appears on the obverse of both varieties, the clashing appears on opposite sides.

- Does the 15 star reverse exhibit any sign of being the source of the clash marks appearing on the obverses?

B7a

My coin is convex on the reverse, and the Eagle's head and the stars above it are very worn. A coin on eBay (maybe an earlier die state) exhibited the same general wear pattern on the reverse, and that coin was described as being bent. (Both coins would "rock" when placed obverse up on a flat surface.) Since there are no die cracks in the worn areas, my guess is that the reverse die is concave due to a "buckling" of the die *without* any simultaneous fracturing.

- Which came first- the dentil clashing or the die concavity?
- Which one of the many reverse die cracks started before the dentil clashing?

B19

The B19 reverse was also used on B2. Only three star-dentil relationships can be seen on the clashed image on my VF25 specimen.

- Does a B19 exist without clashed dentils? Or a B2 *with* clashed dentils?
- Could more star-dentil relationships be obtained from a higher grade specimen? Enough to positively identify the “other” die?



B19 Reverse. In addition to the clashed dentils, clashed obverse stars are visible under letters MERIC; parts of the tops of the letters ERIC are missing.

QUESTIONS

Here are some questions that might be answered from observations made from more coins.

1. Was the misaligned die always instantly destroyed? If not, then there must exist an example exhibiting some clashed devices (stars, letters, etc.) either on, or near, the dentils of the misaligned die.
2. Could the obverse die be used as either the hammer or the anvil? In this small sample, the marks appeared on the obverse for half of the sampling and on the reverse for the other half.
3. Do the clashed dentils always appear on the properly aligned die? (I think so.)

4. How was the correct “orientation” between the obverse and reverse dies achieved? If there were no marking or flats, maybe the anvil die was tilted by placing a small block under one side and then the hammer die was slowly lowered until they touched. A Mint worker would look into the resulting “clam shell” opening between the dies and rotate the dies appropriately. The clash marks would result if the hammer die were not lowered slowly.

Although this dentil die clashing happened often in 1799, it did happen in other years. Look at Figures 11 and 12 in Anthony Taraszka’s article in Volume 11, Issue 3 of *The John Reich Journal* for examples on an 1803 Eagle. Something was occurring repeatedly back then, and examination of many coins might shed some light on Mint practices as well as the design of the coin press.

The clashing described in this article has different characteristics than the marks described by Gerald Schertz in Volume 2, Issue 3 (1809 half dollar); and then by Brad Karoleff in his letter in Volume 3, Issue 1 and then in his article in Volume 4, Issue 3 (1812 half dollar) in the JR Journal. The clashing exhibited by those pieces probably involved a large lateral shift of a die, while the 1799 dollars probably resulted from just a tilt of the dies.

I would be happy to hear from anyone with any ideas or questions, and would appreciate any observations on 1799 dollars that you have. My e-mail address is prh@ece.iit.edu and regular mail can be sent to me at my work address: ECE Dept., 3301 S. Dearborn, Chicago IL 60616. The URL for this article is <http://www.ece.iit.edu/~prh/coins/juj/ddc.html> and that page will be updated as more information is obtained. The digital camera used to make these images (an Olympus C2500L) will be with me at ANA 2000 in Philadelphia to photograph as many coins as possible for a follow-up article.

Editor’s Note:

Those of you attending the ANA in Philadelphia, bring your Dentil Clashed Dollars for inspection at the JRCS meeting and open house.



Ten Favorite Bust Auction Catalogues

Karl Moulton

By attending several JRCS meetings at ANA conventions in the past, it has been confirmed that many members understand and appreciate the necessity of collecting numismatic literature. Being a dealer in this material has afforded me an in-depth knowledge of what's between the covers of most United States catalogues.

Recently I was asked by JRJ editor Brad Karoleff to submit an article about important Bust coinage auction catalogues. The following list represents the author's opinion about the top two "core reference catalogues" for each separate silver denomination.

BUST DOLLARS

- 1) August 8, 1975 ANA Sale by Superior. Although not listed, the primary consignor was A.J. Ostheimer. The catalogue contains over 250 lots of Bust Dollars, every one of them attributed and plated life-sized in clear, B&W plates.

This was the first ANA convention for the author. It was a different time when the dealers displayed not only coins, but a little class as well. Business suits were still worn and the banquet was an important part of the camaraderie for numismatists.

This catalogue also contains a very impressive run of Seated coinage. I'll never forget Jerry Cohen handing me the 1876-CC 20-cent piece (purchased the evening before at the auction for \$45,000) and remarking, "Look at the word LIBERTY. It's doubled. That's how you tell if it's genuine."

This catalogue was one of the largest ANA sales to date. The event (held at the Ambassador Hotel downtown) was as exciting as the catalogue is today, 25 years later.

- 2) April 8, 1954 Davis-Graves by Stack's. George Davis was an astute 19th century collector who died in 1890. Included in this important catalogue is the 1794 dollar w/stars in copper - ex-Parmelee; along with 67 attributed lots with 27 B&W plates. Naturally, there is an 1804 Dollar offered. This was the Robert Coulton Davis specimen (no relation to George) which was then owned by Henry Graves.

Included with the pedigree of the 1804 Dollar is contemporary documentation relating to the validity of this piece. One 1878 letter, which is reprinted in the catalogue, comes from William E. DuBois, Assayer and Curator of the Mint Collection, which is now housed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

In his *certificate of authenticity* DuBois states "...this Dollar is one of the original issue – and not a 'restrike'..." This was an outright lie! He even lied about how he spelled his own last name. Talk about a credibility gap...

The appearance of the restrike 1804 Class III dollars was first witnessed just two years earlier when John Haseltine (a rather prominent dealer whose office was located directly across the street from the Mint) offered one for sale in January 1876 for \$600. There were no takers.

Although it has never been suggested before in print, the author believes these Restrike 1804 Dollars were struck by DuBois and distributed by Haseltine for selected numismatists in Philadelphia for the nation's centennial celebration that was being held in that city. This theory can be partially confirmed by S.H. Chapman's dialogue found in the 1913 Lyman catalogue which states, "when I entered this business in 1876, these dollars were being put on the market by a certain Mint official (in all probability W.E. DuBois) now long deceased." DuBois died in 1881. That's strong contemporary validation from someone who was actually there.

Interest had been peaking as there were two different 1804 Dollars auctioned in the previous two years (Sanford-1874, Cohen-1875); along with at least one 1804 Electrototype (Idler's). Although they were clandestine products, these U.S. Mint "souvenirs" may have been born in the spirit of national pride.

HALF DOLLARS

- 1) Although there have been a number of significant offerings over the years, for completeness and condition my vote would be the April 6, 1997 Louis E. Eliasberg Collection by Bowers & Merena. Rarities abound with 2 proof-like Uncirculated 1796 15 and 16-stars offerings. There's also a 1797 in Mint State, an 1801 in Mint State, and a Gem 1815/2. The finest 1817/4 is plated full-page and comes with three pages of background and pedigree information. Several early "Proof" issues are catalogued, along with the Crushed Lettered Edge restrikes of 1833-35. The Reeded Edge Bust portion includes an 1836 Proof and an 1838-O Proof with pedigrees on other known examples. This milestone collection was expertly catalogued by the Bowers & Merena organization, making it a must have item.

- 2) May 5, 1977 Getty by Bowers & Ruddy. This overlooked sale contained a comprehensive run of high-grade Bust Halves. There are over 400 lots with many enlarged B&W plates of over-dates and clashed dies, etc. Although it was not a complete variety set, it represents one Bust Half Nut Club member's attempt at doing so in the finest obtainable condition. If you don't have one of these, you should.

BUST QUARTERS

- 1) October 4, 1979 Herbert Bergen by Abner Kreisberg. Bergen was purchasing coins from Max Mehl auctions back in the 1940's when he was offering some of the finest and most complete collections ever formed. Bergen specialized in Bust Quarters. His collection was nearly complete by variety except for the two 1827 over-date issues (which he thought were too high priced). Among his holdings was the unique 1807 Plain Edge Bust Quarter in Mint State (now in the author's collection). This piece was first described by Lyman Low in 1909 and has an illustrious pedigree with numismatists such as William Woodin, Hillyer Ryder, H.O. Granberg, and Wayte Raymond having owned it in the last century.

The Bergen catalogue has most of the coins plated in color and B&W; however, the plates are not sharp or enlarged. Still, it remains one of the best collections of correctly attributed Bust Quarters ever auctioned.

Bergen lent his research notes about corrections and new varieties not listed in the original Browning work to "R. Duphorne" for his rather worthless book about Early Quarter Dollars that was published in 1975. If Mr. Duphorne does indeed exist, he has never come forth to accept the credit, or blame, for this particular volume.

- 2) November 12, 1990 Fred Mathews Collection in the Chris Shenkel catalogue by Bowers & Merena. Hidden away in the Shenkel catalogue is one of the more complete, high-grade collections of Bust Quarters to ever come onto the market. It was quietly put together by Mathews, a car dealer and entrepreneur.

There are nearly 80 attributed lots with 55 sharp B&W plates. There are even examples of the 1815 - E and 1825 - E counter-stamped issues. For the latest "discussion" about the E & L counter-stamp issues, the reader is referred to Q. David Bowers book "American Coin Treasures and Hoards", p.117-121.

This author has been actively researching the early Large Size Bust Quarters and plans a new book about them sometime in the future. Any members who wish to participate in a confidential uncirculated Bust Quarter census by variety, please contact me at the address given at the end of this article.

BUST DIMES

- 1) October 22, 1981 Harold Bareford by Stack's. This is a close call with several other sales. The reason for this particular catalogue to be first is due to the condition of the material and the fact that all 53 lots are pedigreed by Bareford to earlier sales. It is difficult to find well-plated and described catalogues on early Bust Dimes, and the clear B&W plates are life-sized and double-sized for clarity.

Bareford, like Bergen, bought heavily in the late 1940's and 1950's. This means he had his choice of many fine collections. Interestingly, it was at this sale that the five authors of the "Early U.S. Dimes 1796 - 1837" book got together for the very first time and cemented the idea to create the standard reference that is used today. Allen Lovejoy, one of the authors of the aforementioned book and whose own collection was most impressive, was a special consultant in cataloguing the Bareford Dime collection.

- 2) November 29, 1995 Waldo "Pat" Bolen Collection in the NUMISMA '95 by David Akers / RARCOA. Bolen had obtained every date and mint-mark dime except for one, the unique 1873-CC No Arrows, which he bought when it became available in the 1996 Eliasberg collection sale. His dime set was sold the previous year and included many uncirculated examples of Bust coinage. The only Bust coin of the 55 plated in color and B&W that did not have any remaining lustre was the 1829 Curl Based '2' in Very Fine. Everything else was top end quality.

For those who like to get a cross-section of early Bust coinage in a single catalogue, this particular sale offered a Gem 1794 Dollar along with 16 plates of other early Bust Dollars.

BUST HALF DIMES

- 1) It would be extremely difficult to top the May 20, 1996 Louis Eliasberg Sale by Bowers & Merena. By the time you pass the Colonials, Patterns, Territorial Gold, Early Copper and the first million dollar coin - the 1913 "V" nickel, you finally arrive at the Half Dimes. Starting with three 1794 Gem Mint State examples is something that has not been duplicated. All the rarities are here in top grades, and all are plated in color and/or B&W. Examples of the 1796/5 and 1797 15 and 16 stars in Mint State provide plenty of "looks". There's a well-struck 1802 along with the finest 1803 "Large Date" in the early series.

The Capped Bust run offers many Gem Uncirculated pieces, including several catalogued as "Proofs". All are attributed with interesting narratives on die varieties, die states, striking characteristics, etc. Oh yes, the equally impressive Bust Dime section follows and makes for a "must have" item in every numismatic library.

2) April 10, 1969 R.L. Miles by Stack's. Although the variety collector may take exception to including this catalogue, it remains one of the finest and most complete collections of Half Dimes ever offered; along with every other U.S. denomination. Miles was a collector of quality coins, and this catalogue contained his silver and copper coins (the U.S. Gold was sold earlier in 1968). The early Half Dimes include a 1794 and 1795 in Mint State. There is a fully proof-like 1796. The 1797 15-star is Uncirculated. The 1802 is Extremely Fine (ex-Anderson/DuPont 1954), and the very scarce 1805 is a well-struck About Uncirculated. In all 13 early Half Dimes are plated in B&W.

The real value of this catalogue is the chance to see the rest of Miles' collection, which includes numerous high-grade Bust Dimes, Quarters, Halves, and Dollars.

At the risk of being verbose, I would like to add the October 27, 1982 U.S. Gold Coin (Eliasberg) catalogue by Bower & Ruddy for the early Federal Gold issues. This then would be my 10 (plus 1) favorite Bust coinage catalogues to have in a reference library.

There are many others that were not chosen due to lack of usable plates, initial expense, and/or the catalogue descriptions. We must remember that cataloguers are not primarily interested in the background of any certain issue. For the most part, they are laboring under time constraints and concentrate on the selling aspect rather than on doing research. What information that is found in the catalogues usually comes from some other source.

All of the catalogues listed, plus hundreds more, can be acquired from numismatic literature mail bid sales, internet offerings, and selected fixed price lists.

For further information the author may be contacted by writing to PO Box 1073, Congress, AZ 85332; or e-mail at numiscats@aol.com.

Editor's Note:

I would like to thank Karl for his insightful article on Auction Catalogs. I would also like to invite the membership to send me their additions to Karl's list for future publication.



The “Spice” of Reduced Size Bust Quarters

Ken Cable-Camilleis

This is in regards to the 1836 “reduced size” Bust quarter discussed in Bob Janos’ July 1999 article. I have examined several 1836 quarters, and, according to my files, at least one of the lot, and probably two (I believe I did not examine the same coin twice), are this very rare variety. For argument’s sake I will say two. They were both in lower grades than the specimen depicted in Mr. Janos’ article, but I did observe the feature Mr. Janos describes on both specimens, namely a perfect obverse coupled with the characteristic die cracks of the B4 reverse. I would likewise conclude that Mr. Janos’ coin is a B4, although I have believed that this is a subclass of a variety which had never been fully attributed by Browning.

This brings to light an interesting point. Considerable research I have done on this short “reduced size” series (1831-38) leads me to believe that there should be a restructuring of some of the Browning variety designations. Since 1993, I have examined over 800 reduced size quarters of varying grade, and have come up with some observations regarding the 1834 B1, the 1835 B2, B4 and B7, and some of the 1831 and 1837 issues that do not appear to be represented in the Browning plates or related text. In some cases, observed in the existence, absence or maturing of a die crack or other anomaly which was not predominant in a particular variety, and in other cases it is the placement of lettering or measurement of device details.

There appears to be more than one school of thought as to what constitutes a variety. Technically, die state is independent of die variety because die state is measured by activity within a single die usage rather than across dies. Browning did not designate varieties based on die state or die clashing, and, although he discussed character placement to a degree (such as the spacing of “25 C.”) it is not clear that character orientation alone distinguishes one variety from another. Each individual letter, or digit, was still configured separately, but the variation was not really an attribute of the die; this period was slightly before dies were hubbed so as to produce stereotypical strikings. Furthermore, I’ve been told that the Browning varieties are cast in stone; that between Browning himself and the latest revision of his work “all the bases have been covered”, and that no new varieties are likely to be discovered. A fellow numismatist states, “A B1 is a B1, there’s no such thing as a ‘subclass’”, etc. I disagree with this belief; I feel there are many factors that play an analytical role.

For instance, I was once the owner of an 1834 B1, PCGS graded MS61, which must have been from an extremely late die state. There were heavy clash marks noted on the bust and although the coin was certified Mint State, it must have been struck from a clogged die, as

the details on the lower portion of the bust, such as the round clasp and the folds of the gown, were completely missing! None of the 1834 Browning photos show this feature. And curiously, the right wing span on my B1 extended slightly farther than appeared in Browning's B1 plate. Also, I saw an 1835 quarter at a Bay State show several years ago that I thought was a B2. I did not buy the coin. However, upon obtaining the Browning book some months later, from my notes I knew this coin had a characteristic of the B7. Such a hybrid clearly is not listed among the eight varieties of 1835 from Browning's text. I would have been better off having “bought the book before the coin”, then I'd have known I'd discovered treasure and bought it! Having learned my lesson, I strove to comb coin shows and look for “mismatches” with respect to Browning's work.

I'd be interested in feedback from anyone who has a good understanding of reduced size Bust quarters, regarding potentially new varieties or sub-varieties in his or her possession. Such coins may be fair game for designation by a new Browning label. In my opinion, Bob Janos' 1836 quarter sounds like a good candidate for at least a designation of “B4A” or something of the like. (I'm also curious as to whether the supposed 1836 B4 was a chance discovery on the part of Mr. Janos) Actually I propose to inject die state attributes into variety designations such that the earliest known die state of a particular variety be designated “B-x” (just the number), with each successive measurable deterioration of the die designated “BxA, BxB”, etc. Any thoughts?



Attention Bust Quarter Collectors

Jim Koenings

Rory Rea and I are working on a series of books that will be called "The Rarest (enter denomination). The first book we plan to publish will be called "The Rarest Quarters-1796-1807. We are currently taking color photos of every R5 or rarer Bust Dime or Bust Quarter. Once we have more than 75 photos of a single variety, that variety will be removed from any future editions. (This is a lifetime project).

Each coin will be enlarged to 3 inches in diameter and all known pedigrees will be listed. Notes will be made to distinguish between different specimens of the same variety by listing prominent scratches, edge marks and other oddities, etc. Die states will also be studied and rarity ratings will be established.

By the end of June 2000, Long Beach Coin Show, Rory had taken over 12 rolls of photos of Bust Dimes and Quarters. For example, we already have photos of at least eight different specimens of 1805 B5's and four different specimens of 1806 B8's. We are currently waiting for permission from several auction firms to include photos from their catalogs over the last 25 years, until we can take an actual photo.

Some of the benefits that we see happening from these books are as follows:

1. Besides showing the top 6 specimens, all other specimens will be shown thus allowing a true rarity rating to be established.
2. Having all photos may help to determine if a coin is authentic, or not.
3. A rarity rating will be established for different die states.
4. Should a collector's coins become stolen, we have the ability to print out all the photos from our book for that person.

If you think this book has merit, and would like to have your coins pictured in our first edition, we would appreciate any correspondence concerning the following coins:

1796 B1, B2	1820 B5	1834 B5
1804 B2	1821 B5, B6	1835 B8
1805 B1, B2b, B5	1822 B2	1836 B5
1806 B5, B6, B7, B8, B10	1823 B1	1837 B5
1818 B6, B7, B9	1827 B1, B2	
1819 B1, B4	1831 B7	

Additionally, any coin with die breaks which includes the years 1825, 1835, 1836, and 1837.

If you will correspond with us, we may arrange to be at a significant coin show in your area and take pictures of your coins. Please write to:

Jim Koenings, PO Box 2382, Riverside, CA 92516



Inspection of the First Coins of the First United States Mint

Stephen A. Crain

The Mint Act of April 2, 1792 not only provided for the striking of the first United States coins, it also authorized the newly formed government to purchase land for a mint, to contract for the construction of a mint building, to purchase the necessary coining equipment, and to hire the required craftsmen and artisans. The new Mint building would be the first public building built under the authority of the United States government. It would be located at the seat of the Federal government, in Philadelphia, a decade before the nation's capitol was relocated to Washington, D.C..

On July 18, 1792, a deed was drawn up between Frederick Hailer and the United States government for three contiguous lots of land, formerly the site of a distillery belonging to Michael Schubert. The lots were situated at what was then known as 37 and 39 North Seventh Street, and 631 Filbert Street. The following day, the existing old distillery buildings were razed, and construction of the first United States Mint began. On July 31, the cornerstone of the foundation was laid by the newly appointed Director of the Mint, David Rittenhouse, the nation's premier scientist and respected clockmaker.

President George Washington was eager to begin production of the coinage of the United States not only to aid in commerce, but also as an indication to other world governments of the autonomy and strength of the new nation. The authorizing legislation empowered the President with unprecedented authority over the establishment and operation of the Mint. Impatient with the slow progress of its inception, Washington arranged to have a coining press set up in the basement of a saw manufacturing operation two blocks away, owned by John Harper, on Sixth and Cherry Streets. Harper had been previously employed to forge and harden, or temper, some of the earliest coinage dies.

With the necessary legislation in place, the required coining equipment beginning to arrive from Europe, with engravers and artisans employed, and with some early dies engraved by Adam Eckfeldt and Robert Birch, Washington was ready to begin production of the first United States coins. However, the authorizing legislation required both the assayer and chief coiner to post bonds in the amount of \$10,000 each for production of coins in precious metals, gold and silver. This proved to be prohibitive for both employees, and remained a problem for the coiner even after the bond amount was reduced to \$5,000, until Thomas Jefferson posted the bond himself.

A popular legend, apparently confirmed by recent research, holds that President and Mrs. Washington volunteered their silver tea service, a wedding present, for the production of the

INSPECTION OF THE FIRST COINS OF THE FIRST US MINT

first silver coins. The silver was assayed at a value of \$100, enough to produce a quantity of 2000 half dismes. The smallest silver denomination was decided upon, in an effort to produce the largest quantity of coins. On or shortly before July 13, the first half dismes were produced, and delivered to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. They were, in turn, presented by Jefferson to President Washington and other government and Mint officials.

The first Mint at Philadelphia continued to produce all United States coins for over forty years, until it was replaced by the second mint facility, in 1833. The United States Mint property on Seventh and Filbert Streets was sold at public auction on October 8, 1835. Complete with much of its original machinery, it sold for a mere \$10,000.

Just after the turn of the twentieth century, a Philadelphia businessman named Frank Stewart bought a piece of property in his home town on which he intended to build a warehouse for his electrical supply business. After purchasing the property, he came to realize that what he had actually purchased was the first United States Mint property, on Seventh and Filbert Streets.

After recognizing that he had just purchased a piece of American heritage, and realizing his obligation to the American people, Frank Stewart began an earnest but unsuccessful campaign to garner public support for restoration of the property into a museum. Neither public nor private support was forthcoming, and he eventually, and very reluctantly, gave in to the idea that the buildings could not be saved. He hired experts to systematically disassemble the buildings, brick by brick, board by board, discovering the secrets they held. He hired professional photographers to document every step of the process. He hired professional archeologists to perform a scientific dig at the sight, uncovering many artifacts, including some discarded old dies and even some silver center blank planchets intended for the silver center Birch cents. All of the recovered artifacts were turned over to the City of Philadelphia, and were, for a time, displayed at Independence Hall. They are now part of the National Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

In addition to these very unselfish acts on the part of Mr. Frank Stewart, he also commissioned an artist, Edwin Lamsure, to paint a picture of what the site, and its three buildings, might have looked like in 1792. This painting is now also part of the National Collection.

Of great significance to aficionados of the half dime series, Mr. Stewart also commissioned another artist, John Ward Dunsmore, to create a painting depicting the occasion of the "Inspection of the First Coins of the First United States Mint". The first coins produced by the United States Mint, in July of 1792, were, of course, the 1792 half dismes. The now famous painting shows George and Martha Washington, Alexander and Mrs. Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, David Rittenhouse, Tobias Lear, Adam Eckfeldt, Henry Voight, and another mint workman inspecting the half dismes.

It had long been a goal of mine to determine, first, if there were any prints ever made of the Dunsmore painting, and second, if so, how I might acquire a copy. My first inquiry was made to Massachusetts numismatic book dealer, Charles Davis. He informed me that, long ago, at a coin show, he had seen a print of the Dunsmore painting at a dealer's table, but was informed, in no uncertain terms, that it was not for sale. Undaunted, I was inspired at least by the knowledge that such a print did exist.

My pursuit continued until the 1999 Chicago ANA Summer Convention, when I received a phone call in my hotel room from Charlie Davis, from the bourse floor, telling me that I would never believe what had just walked up to his table! Based upon his description, alone, I agreed to purchase, sight unseen, a spectacular color print of the fabulous Dunsmore painting. It was produced as a 1916 calendar for the Frank Stewart Electric Co., of Philadelphia. The color print, itself, is 10" by 7", and exhibits the most vivid and vibrant colors imaginable. I had no idea that the state of the art in color printing, in 1916, could produce such quality. The overall calendar is 16" by 15", and all of the individual monthly calendar pages are intact.

As photography would not become a reality until roughly 1840, no photographs of the original mint are available today. Certainly, no photographs are available of such an historically significant event as the presentation of the very first United States coins. Although I do not (yet) own an example of the 1792 half disme, over my collecting career I have had the privilege of inspecting several high grade examples of that most intriguing of all United States coins. And each time I examine one of the 1792 half dismes, I am overcome with the realization that George Washington and Thomas Jefferson actually handled that coin. It is that same fascination and intrigue with the efforts of our founding fathers that drove me to pursue the Dunsmore print, and why I have proudly displayed it in my den. It is interesting to note that such a significant piece of exonumia can provide the same exhilaration as even an R7 die marriage.

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